



MEMORANDUM

September 4, 2014

TO: For those interested in the activities of the American Eel Management Board; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee; ACCSP Coordinating Council; Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee; Atlantic Herring Section; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Executive Committee; Habitat Committee; Horseshoe Crab Management Board; ISFMP Policy Board; Law Enforcement Committee; Management & Science Committee; Spiny Dogfish Management Board; Coastal Sharks Management Board; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board; Winter Flounder Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal *REB*
Executive Director

RE: **73rd Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
October 26-30, 2014 – Mystic, Connecticut

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 73rd Annual Meeting will be held October 26-30, 2014 at the Hilton Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut. This memorandum contains meeting details, including the preliminary agenda. All of the business meetings scheduled during this week (with the exception of closed sessions) are open to the public, free of charge. Please note the preliminary agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided in the Preliminary Agenda which follows.

ACCOMODATIONS: A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Mystic (20 Coogan Blvd. Mystic, CT). Please call the Hilton Mystic at 860.572.0731 as soon as possible and specifically mention the SPR code of ASMFC to obtain the negotiated room rate of **\$129.00** plus tax. Hotel reservations must be made before **September 22, 2014**. **Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment and you must notify the hotel of any cancellation **prior to 72 hours before arrival** or you will be billed one night's room plus tax. **If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Cindy at 703.842.0740 or crobertson@asmfc.org.**

GETTING TO MYSTIC: The Hilton Mystic is located in Mystic off of Interstate 95, and is easily accessible by either car or air. From Interstate 95 take Exit 90. At the end of the exit, follow the signs to the Mystic Aquarium. The Hilton Mystic is right across the street from the Mystic Aquarium. The nearest major airport is **T.F. Green Memorial State Airport** (PVD/KPVD). This airport is 46 miles from the center of Mystic, CT. Another major airport is **Tweed New Haven Regional Airport** (HVN / KHVN), which is 54 miles from Mystic, CT. Self-parking is complimentary for overnight guests.

REGISTRATION: All meetings are open to the public free of charge. However, if you plan on attending any of the Annual Meeting social events, please help us prepare for these events by registering at <http://mahi.accsp.org:8080/myJSPs/registration73rdAnnualMtg.htm>. The registration fee covers the Monday night reception, the Tuesday night dinner, and the Wednesday Hart Award Luncheon, as well as spouse/guest activities. ***Payment is not required until you arrive at the meeting; however, we ask that you please assist us in planning for the meeting by registering as soon as possible.***

The final agenda and meeting materials will be available on October 17, 2014 on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2014-Annual-Meeting>. In the interim, if there are any questions concerning the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Commission, please contact Laura Leach or me at 703.842.0740. We look forward to seeing you all in Mystic in October!

Enclosures: Preliminary Agenda
Hotel Directions



Public Comment Guidelines

With the intent of developing policies in the Commission's procedures for public participation that result in a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comment will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comment for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be October 21, 2014) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following the Tuesday, October 21, 2014 5:00 PM deadline, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail, fax, and email.

Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Sunday, October 26, 2014

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Registration**

Monday, October 27, 2014

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Atlantic Herring Section**

- Review and Consider Approval of Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment
- Set 2015 Specifications

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee**

- Review and Rank FY2015 Habitat Restoration Proposals
- Initiate Review of ACFHP 5-year Conservation Strategic Plan
- Presentation on Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Habitat Assessment
- Presentation on Climate Change Impacts to Coastal Fish Habitats

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Management and Science Committee**

- Overview of FishSmart/Barotrauma Program and Tools
- Overview of Research Set Aside Program
- NMFS Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis
- Review New ASMFC Webpage for Commercial/Recreational Regulations by State/Species
- Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCMFIS) Presentation
- Review Stock Assessment Schedule
- Program Updates

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **Winter Flounder Management Board**

- Review Northeast Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Update for Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder
- Review Update of Abundance and Biomass Indices for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder
- Set 2015 Specifications

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **American Eel Management Board**

- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV

3:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Registration**

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception at the Mystic Aquarium**

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **American Lobster Management Board**

- Public Comment Summary of the Cancer Crab Public Information Document
- Board Guidance on Development of Management Options for Draft FMP for Cancer Crab
- Review Lobster Gear and Trap Transfer Inconsistencies in State/Federal Waters
- Review LCMT Reports and Proposals on Southern New England Reductions

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Habitat Committee**

- Overview of Action Plan 2015 and Work Plan
- Review Publications in Progress: *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* (climate change impacts on fish habitats), Habitat Management Series (living shorelines, aquaculture), Sciaenid Habitat Management Document
- Habitat Bottlenecks

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Law Enforcement Committee**

- Review of LEC Guidelines for Enforceability
- State and Federal Agency Reports
- Species Board Updates

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

- Review Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Wave 4 Harvest Estimates for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass (if available)
- Discuss Available Management Approaches for the 2015 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries

- 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee**
(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)
- Review Progress of the Independent Program Review (IPR) Recommendations
- 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Legislators and Governors’ Appointees Luncheon**
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Business Session**
- Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Election
 - 2014 Action Plan Update
 - 2015 Action Planning
- 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. **Registration**
- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board & ACCSP Coordinating Council**
- Review and Consider Recommendations on the State Conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program-Access Point Angler Intercept Survey
- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **ACCSP Coordinating Council**
- Consider and Approve Proposals for FY2015 Funding
 - Program Updates
 - Committee Updates
 - Update from Executive Committee on IPR Recommendations Progress
- 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. **Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Strategic Planning Workshop**
- 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Annual Dinner at the Mystic Seaport**

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Executive Committee**
- Review Commission Two-thirds Voting Policy
 - Review Executive Director’s Priorities for 2015
 - Advisory Panel Involvement in FMP Development
 - Approve FY 2014 Audit
 - Discuss Future Annual Meetings
- 10:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**
- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon**

Thursday, October 30, 2014

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**
- Review Updates on Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Abundance
 - Set 2015 Specifications
 - Review and Consider Approval of the 2014 FMP Review and State Compliance Report
- 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Commissioner Workshop on Fisheries Socioeconomics Using Atlantic Menhaden as a Case-Study**
- Overview of Social Science Evaluation
 - Overview of Economic Analyses
 - Management Scenario Interactive Workgroup Activity
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Coastal Sharks Management Board**
- Review NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Division Smoothhound Proposed Rule and Consider Development of Board Comments
 - Set 2015 Coastal Sharks Specifications
- 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. **Spiny Dogfish Management Board**
- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum V
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board**
- Committee Reports: Fish Passage Work Group, Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Management and Science Committee
 - Consider Approval of Revisions to the ASMFC Committee Guidance and Assessment Process Document
- 4:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Business Session (if necessary)**



Hilton Mystic

20 Coogan Boulevard Mystic, Connecticut 06355-1900

TEL: 860.572.0731

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Traveling I-95 South: Take exit 90. Make a left turn at the end of the exit. At first light turn left as if you are heading back toward I-95 North. Stay in the right lane and bear right onto Clara Drive. Hilton Mystic will be on the left across from the Aquarium.

Traveling I-95 North: Take exit 90. Turn right following sign for Coogan Blvd. At first light turn left onto Coogan Blvd. Hilton Mystic hotel will be on the right.

T.F. Green Airport/Theodore Francis Green State Airport, RI (Distance from Hotel: 42.0 mi.)

From T.F. Green Airport Connector Road, follow signs for I-95 South/New York. Take exit 90 for CT-27 (S/Greenmanville Ave.) toward Mystic Aquarium/Mystic Seaport. At second traffic light, turn left onto Coogan Blvd. Follow Coogan Blvd. for 1/3 mile to Hilton Mystic on the right.

Bradley International Airport (Distance from Hotel: 67.5 mi.)

Take I-91 south to I-95 North to exit 90. Make a right turn off the exit and follow signs for Coogan Blvd. At first light turn left onto Coogan Blvd and continue 1/3 mile to Hilton Mystic on the right.

Groton-New London Airport, CT (Distance from Hotel: 6.7 mi.)

Take I-95 North to Exit 90 and turn right onto CT-27 S/Greenmanville Ave.), following signs for Coogan Blvd. At first light turn left onto Coogan Blvd and continue 1/3 mile to Hilton Mystic on the right.